

and Human Resources. Mr. Moon entered the United States Marine Corps in July 1968 and went on to a successful career of defending the interests of his nation. His outstanding service in the Vietnam conflict earned him numerous honors including three bronze stars, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, and the National Defense Service Medal.

After departing Vietnam, Mr. Moon went on to serve as Post Commander of his local VFW post, 2873, and served the people of Grover Hill, Ohio as their mayor for sixteen years. In his terms as local Post Commander, he was awarded the distinction of All State Post Commander. Mr. Moon also served on numerous national committees before achieving the top post in the VFW such as the Americanism committee which helps to inspire the American patriotic spirit within the populace of our nation, especially our youth. Mr. Moon was elected VFW Commander-in-Chief on August 21, 1997 at the VFW National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah.

My fellow colleagues, join me in saluting a true American patriot, one who believes the American spirit should continue to thrive in the hearts of all Americans, VFW Commander-in-Chief, John E. Moon.

COMMENDATION OF SARA ATKINSON AND ERIN ENO PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD WINNERS

**HON. PATSY T. MINK**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 1998*

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor two young Hawaii students from my district who achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in their communities. Sara Atkinson of Kealahou and Erin Eno of Wailuku have been named two of my states top honorees in the 1998 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred upon the most impressive student volunteers across America.

Sara Atkinson is being recognized for her initiative in developing a mentoring program for children who were at-risk for violence and substance abuse. Today, through Sara's commitment, over forty children now have mentors. These mentors not only counsel, but also participate in other community services like fund raising and food drives that benefit Hawaii's needy. I commend Sara for her dedication to assist and improve the community in which she lives.

Erin Eno is being recognized for her commitment to help the elderly. Erin sewed lap blankets and wheel chair bags for residents at a local nursing home. When Erin was told she was too young to volunteer, she decided to do something on her own initiative. She solicited fabrics from a local factory and generously gave her time and talent to sew blankets and wheelchair bags that benefited local nursing home residents. Erin is strongly committed to contributing to the community. Through her creativity and ingenuity she found a way to assist senior citizens in her community.

I applaud the selfless contributions made by Sara Atkinson and Erin Eno. I believe they are

shining examples of how young citizens can make a positive impact on the lives of others. I commend them for their desire to help others. What they have done will encourage other young people to follow in their footsteps.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JANICE BRALY, ELEANOR LEMA, CAROL BLASINGAME, SALLY MAGNESON, AND SHIRLEY KIRKPATRICK

**HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 1998*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Janice Braly, Eleanor Lema, Carol Blasingame, Sally Magnuson and Shirley Kirkpatrick for being recognized as the recipients of the Common Threads Award. The award recognizes women whose roots are in agriculture, and who have dedicated themselves to their community through volunteer service and philanthropic giving.

Janice Braly of O'Neals is a former State President of California Woman for Agriculture and a California 4-H foundation member. Among her other accomplishments are a University of California Davis Dean's Policy Council Member and Castaic School Board Association President. She is currently a member of both the California Cattle Women and the Madera County Cattle Women.

Eleanor Lema of Merced is a three-term Chapter President of California Women for Agriculture. She has been active in the Merced Chamber of Commerce for 10 years. Her accomplishments include being a Merced County Farmland Trust Board member for six years, a Merced Farm Bureau member for 20 years and a member of the Soroptimist Club, where she served as a board member for 15 years.

Carol Blasingame of Fresno served as a Director for the Big Fresno Fair Director for three years. In 1996, she was President of the La Feliz Guild. Carol is a member of the Board of Directors of the Fresno City & County Historical Society, Chairman of the Fresno Fair Education Program, serves on the Ag Fresno Advisory Board, and is a member of California Women for Agriculture.

Sally Magnuson of Ballico served as President of the P.T.A. at three different schools, as a Brownie Leader, and as a Cadet Scouts Leader. She is a past President and the founding member of the League of Women Voters of Merced County. Sally was formerly active on the California State Reclamation Board, as the President of the Sierra Club of Merced, and as a member of the Merced County Library Commission.

Shelly Kirkpatrick of Exeter is a 4-H Diamond Star, an Officer of the Central California Chapter of California Press Women's Association, and a member of the Tulare County Cattlemen Association. She is the founding member of the Tulare County Chapter of California Women for Agriculture and was elected to the Recreation Commission for the City of Exeter. Shirley currently serves on the Tulare County Planning Commission and is a member of the California Farm Bureau Land Use Commission.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I congratulate Janice Braly, Eleanor Lema,

Carol Blasingame, Sally Magnuson, and Shirley Kirkpatrick for being recognized with the Common Threads Award. I applaud the contributions, ideas, and leadership they have exhibited in our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing these individuals many more years of success.

HONORING THE REV. BETSY SYMLIE

**HON. JACK QUINN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 1998*

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues a very special person in my district, the Reverend Betsy Smylie.

Reverend Smylie graduated from Harvard Radcliffe in 1975, and earned her Master of Divinity from Harvard in 1981. Upon graduation, Reverend Smylie began her career of service in Western New York.

Throughout her many years of service to our community, Reverend Smylie served as Vicar of Ephphatha and Diocesan Missioner to the Deaf. She has also demonstrated a true commitment to such important institutions for the Deaf as the St. Mary's School, Deaf Adult Services, and other agencies whose goal is empowerment for Western New York's hearing impaired.

In addition to her tremendous service to the Deaf, strong command of sign language, devotion to God and community, and leadership, she has obtained an extraordinary level of respect from our community, both as a scholar and preacher, and as an unyielding advocate.

Tragically, Reverend Smylie was admitted to the hospital on January 5th, 1998 with malignant brain cancer.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to join with the Town of Hamburg, and indeed, our entire Western New York community, to express our sincere best wishes to Reverend Betsy Smylie for a complete and speedy recovery through God's Healing Hand as she battles cancer.

Reverend Smylie has always had a love for our American government. It is only fitting that I now ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in prayer for the Reverend Smylie, and for her husband, Reverend John Smylie, and their children, Shemalajah and Nathan.

IN HONOR OF REVEREND WATKINS

**HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 1998*

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I write to congratulate you on your calling to serve as the Senior Pastor of the 125 year old Nazarene Congregational United Church of Christ in Brooklyn.

As a native son of the State of Texas you exemplify the belief that everything and everyone in Texas is just a little larger than life. Your illustrious background has encompassed ministering to students at numerous colleges, universities and churches.

You have also served your country with excellence as Coordinator of Health, Education